

OFFICIAL-SENSITIVE

Meeting IPC Cell Huddle

Date & Time 13 January 2021 – 12:00-13:30

In attendance:



Apologies:



Ref	Agenda item
1.	MATTERS ARISING NOT ON THE AGENDA <u>Cleaning pathways COVID-19</u> ■ – ■ shared NHSEI Estates Cleaning SOPs for COVID-19 Pathways with the group. ■ asked if disinfectant solutions should be used in ambulances, as disinfectant wipes were sometimes used. Agreed that ambulances should continue to be decontaminated using products agreed as suitable for the vehicle surfaces and effective against the pathogens to be decontaminated ■ agreed to take any comments from the group as a meeting was taking place with NHSEI Estates colleagues on the Cleaning Standards document next week, 19th Jan. ■ advised there were a few issues with the recommendations in the Cleaning Pathway SOPs, including repetition in the medium and high-risk pathways. Wales have their own cleaning standards. ■ advised that the Cleaning Pathways had been amended to include cleaning toilets after each use. <u>BAPEN (AHP Alliance) – AGPs</u> ■ shared the BAPEN weblink. The AHP alliance have recently written separately to the Independent AGP Panel and the CNO regarding the use of FFP3s for procedures which they believe to be aerosol generating and are not on the extant AGP list. The review of the Independent AGP Panel have now published their findings which has not resulted in a change to the current AGP list at this time.
2.	MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING Minutes of meeting circulated to the group.
3.	ACTIONS LOG

	Actions Closed: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No.</th><th>Update</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>151</td><td>Closed. [REDACTED] to share the draft SOP re swabbing with the group.</td></tr> <tr> <td>163</td><td>Closed.</td></tr> <tr> <td>165</td><td>Closed. [REDACTED] advised it was anticipated the guidance would be published on Friday.</td></tr> <tr> <td>166</td><td>Closed. [REDACTED] to circulate after meeting.</td></tr> </tbody> </table> Actions Updated: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No.</th><th>Update</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>164</td><td>Ongoing. IPS letter was shared with group. Response to be drafted.</td></tr> </tbody> </table> New actions: <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>No.</th><th>Update</th></tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td> </td><td> </td></tr> </tbody> </table>	No.	Update	151	Closed. [REDACTED] to share the draft SOP re swabbing with the group.	163	Closed.	165	Closed. [REDACTED] advised it was anticipated the guidance would be published on Friday.	166	Closed. [REDACTED] to circulate after meeting.	No.	Update	164	Ongoing. IPS letter was shared with group. Response to be drafted.	No.	Update		
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4.	UPDATES FROM MEETINGS [REDACTED] asked about a letter discussed by [REDACTED] at the HOCl meeting 7th Jan. This was an open letter from the BMA to the Prime Minister regarding the use of FFP3 respirators. [REDACTED] was requested by senior leaders to draft a response to this open letter for discussion by UK leaders. [REDACTED] advised that PHE had received several open letters regarding PPE. DHSC are currently coordinating the PHE response. [REDACTED] underlined the importance of continuing to review the evidence regarding PPE/ RPE acknowledging that staff are anxious with regards to the new variant strains. Reiterating in communications the use of droplet precautions (Type IIR fluid repellent surgical masks and eye protection) when caring for a patient who is coughing, or sneezing is considered effective for preventing transmission to healthcare workers; and also increasing the protective effect when combining wearer protection and source control of patients/individuals wearing a mask/face covering. [REDACTED] advised that some communication had gone out to the system and some of the pressure from the organisations had lessened due to this. [REDACTED] – The IPC cell December 2020, Position Statement on current IPC guidance and use of PPE for new COVID-19 variant strains has been sent to [REDACTED] as [REDACTED] for review.																		
5.	OPEN RISKS FROM RISK REGISTER All risks remain open. The new risk regarding the new variant strain has been added.																		
6.	<u>GUIDANCE</u> <u>IPC Guidance</u> [REDACTED] – IPC cell revisions to the IPC guidance have been finalised and the draft sent to PHE.																		

	<u>Ambulance Guidance</u> ■ advised that the Ambulance guidance had gone through governance. One issue is that the SBAR may contradict the ambulance guidance regarding not upgrading PPE levels. ■ advised that the SBAR has been revised to put the PPE issue highlighted by ■ in the correct context. The updated SBAR is currently with ■ for review. ■ asked if the ambulance mitigations set out cannot be maintained should the PPE in ambulances be upgraded? It was ■ view that with all the mitigative measures set out, the current level of PPE should be sufficient. ■ agreed. ■ asked if all the mitigations could not be done what would then be advised. ■ suggested that each situation/ case should be risk assessed as appropriate. <u>Guidance on the Safe Use of Ultrasound Gel</u> ■ outlined that at the beginning of December 2020, there were a number of cases of Burkholderia enigmatica across the country, thought to be associated with a single product. Swabs have been taken and non-sterile creams and wet products have been investigated. There has also been a concurrent Burkholderia cepacia complex outbreak since 2010. An initial investigation was undertaken, and it was found that the outbreak is associated with ultrasound gel. Guidance has been produced on the use of the gel. PHE have identified that the cepacia is the same strain as the recent cases. The enigmatica cases have not been confirmed as caused by the gel as yet. ■ advised that there are issues with how the gels are stored and decanted and there may be unsafe products being used. Although the majority of cases are in 50-60-year olds there have been some cases in new borns and the elderly. ■ advised that The British Ultrasound Society and HIS support the new guidance. ■ asked if the IPC Cell would be able to lead on the guidance? ■ confirmed she would be interested in supporting the development of the guidance. ■ confirmed that the IPC Cell would also be keen to be involved in the development of the guidance. ■ asked for thoughts on having a webinar. It was agreed this may be helpful following development of agreed guidance. ■ asked if a safety alert had be published with regards to this issue. ■ confirmed that MRHA had been involved but there has been no safety alert published.
7.	EVIDENCE/LITERATURE REVIEWS ■ advised that the updated monthly IPC guidance has been produced. ■ to share link.
8.	COMMUNICATIONS/RESOURCES

	■ has discussed with ■, Central Comms regarding communication lines for the IPC guidance when published. ■ to share with the group
9.	DATA: IPC INDICATORS; LESSONS LEARNED Nothing discussed for this item.
10.	AOB ■ asked if there was going to be a joint response from the CNOs regarding the open letters around PPE. ■ confirmed that ■ has been requested to draft a response (discussed earlier in meeting). ■ confirmed that Scotland are currently updating the rapid review of the variant and this will be shared. ■ advised that there is a study due to be published in the next few days, looking at people who have already had COVID. ■ advised there is an ongoing discussion on whether a PCR test will still be required after the lateral flow test.

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NHS England and NHS Improvement